

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06399 281749Z

63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /074 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0616

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06399

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, UK, UG

SUBJECT: UGANDA: TRIAL OF BRITISH SUBJECT CAUSING AP-
PREHENSIONS IN HMG

1. SINCE UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN ANNOUNCED THAT BRITISH SUBJECT, DENIS HILLS, MAY BE TRIED BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL AND EXECUTED IF FOUND GUILTY OF SPYING AND OTHER CHARGES, FCO MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS ON HOW TO REACT. ACCORDING TO ACTING HEAD OF EAST AFRICAN DEPARTMENT, NEILSON, ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER AT KAMPALA WAS ADVISED BY UGANDAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND VICE MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOT TO APPROACH AMIN ON HILLS' CASE AT THIS STAGE, BUT TO LET HIM SIMMER FOR MOMENT. ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER DID CONVEY UK CONCERN TO THESE TWO UGANDAN OFFICIALS AND POINTED OUT POSSIBLE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN UK-UGANDAN RELATIONS IF HILLS EXECUTED.

2. MEANWHILE, FCO HAS HAD CONTINGENCY PLANS APPROVED BY PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET AND IS BUSY PREPARING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON HILLS' CASE FOR GOVERNMENT TO USE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS. NEILSON SAID FCO BELIEVES AMIN WOULD NOT GO THROUGH WITH THREAT TO EXECUTE HILLS, AS ALL HE REALLY HAS AGAINST HIM IS THAT HILLS PUBLISHED BOOK AL-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 06399 281749Z

LEGEDLY DETRIMENTAL TO AMIN. BRITISH EXPECT NOT TO CLOSE

UK MISSION IN UGANDA, AND NEILSON COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF HILLS EXECUTED, OVERALL UK INTEREST IN PROTECTING REMAINING BRITISH SUBJECTS IN UGANDA WOULD PROBABLY DISSUADE HMG FROM CLOSING MISSION. NEVERTHELESS, PLANS BEING PREPARED TO COVER CONTINGENCY OF WITHDRAWAL.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

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